

BLUE GRASS BLADE

WE AIM TO CUT DOWN ERROR AND ESTABLISH TRUTH.

VOLUME XV. NUMBER 2

LEXINGTON, KENTUCKY, SUNDAY, APRIL 15, 1906.

PUBLISHED WEEKLY, \$1.00 A YEAR IN ADVANCE



CHARLES C. MOORE.
Founder of the Blue Grass Blade.
Died February 7th, 1906.

JAMES E. HUGHES - Editor and Publisher
TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION

One issue for one year \$1.00 in advance. In clubs of Five NEW subscribers, 50 cents each.

Terms.—\$1.00 per year in advance; foreign subscription \$1.50 per year.

Five new subscribers sent for one year for \$2.50.

Send your subscription by registered letter, post office or express money order, New York draft, and if personal checks are sent add collection charges as local banks charge for collecting same.

Make all money orders, drafts checks, etc., payable to James E. Hughes, Lexington, Ky.

When you change your address advise this office giving your old as well as the new address.

When you send your subscription say whether you are a new or old subscriber.

The address slip on the paper will show expiration of subscription, and serve as a receipt as the date changes as soon as the subscriber pays.

Subscriptions to the Blade are not discontinued until expiration unless so ordered by the subscriber. The courts invariably hold a subscriber responsible to the publisher for the subscription price of all papers received until the paper is paid for in full and up to date and ordered discontinued.

Office of Publication is located at 153 W. Short St., Lexington, Kentucky.

Entered at the post office at Lexington, Kentucky, as Second Class Mail Matter.

Address all communication to Blue Grass Blade, P. O. Box 393, Lexington, Kentucky.

EDITORIAL

Work is worship.

Love is the greatest priest.

Give to your every thought a bright color.

Foolish jealousy is the offspring of inferiority.

The efforts made at the unification of Christendom have demonstrated that Christendom won't unify.

Some preachers would be deserving of human pity were it not that by bigotry and intolerance they get beneath contempt.

The heart of a true man is never hidden behind the cowardly policy of expediency. It is an open book. Deceive he cannot, for the lie blooms only on coward lips.

The great, non-productive army of tax-eaters is constantly growing and the leading political parties of America deem the public treasure their legitimate spoil to be looted at will. This is a rank, infectious growth on our body politic which will, if permitted to continue, strangle all that is good in our government.

There is a vast gulf between the man who has millions in excess of his needs and whose chief capital is an active, unsatisfied appetite. In the effort to cross this gulf many are hurled to destruction and from these unfortunates come the first splutterings of that revolution, or metamorphosis, that no "marching to the sea," or congressional enactment, can keep in check.

A great majority of American voters regard the church with indifference, if not with aversion, and yet the religious tail is permitted to wag the political dog. This comes from the fact that Free-

while the devotees of Churchianity are engaged in a perpetual crusade. This is why the church continues to dominate the nation and compel even those who despise it to contribute to its support. Millions of dollars of taxes wrung from the pockets of honest toil are donated annually as a matter of expediency, a sop thrown to the ever-hungry Cerberus, by the very men who know it to be a millstone slung about the neck of the giant civilization. We are supposed to be living in a land where every individual is capable of enjoying the broadest religious liberty. Only those really enjoy it who care to pay the price, which is persistent calumny and political ostracism.

For a generation, or more, the famished lion of labor has been creeping closer, and ever closer to the silken tent of Croesus and for the same period of time the political task-masters of the country have been preaching patience, even promising that their united wisdom would soon transform the dark night of industrial depression into glorious day. These promises are yet far from being fulfilled and the night seems almost perpetual, while that long cherished hope of dawn, seems but an idle dream. No wonder that a bitter hatred has found lodgment in numerous hearts, a hatred that may yet flame forth in desperate deeds. The poor man has naught left to him but his labor. It is all he has to exchange for life's necessities. When his right to that is challenged, and his existence becomes a curse, what is left but to steal or starve?

The conflict between the Christian Bible and the laws which regulate modern society, sometimes professedly based thereon, would be most curious did we not remember the unfortunate position in which its adherents are placed. They are bound by a dominate creed to uphold the Bible as of Divine origin, yet the lie is probably as obvious to themselves as to the Freethinker. But Christian society, that is modern society, itself an atrocious fraud, forgives the lie in return for a nominal subservience which is all that is now required. There is a great gulf between the moral tone of the old Testament and that which influences modern society. All through the former three passions are found to predominate, namely, a ferocity of bloodshed; a prurient sensuality; and an affect superstition or a depraved reverence for natural phenomena not understood. The race is and must be progressive. All books are stationary. We can progress beyond the teachings of any book but we cannot reach beyond the limits of human development.

HAVE MONKEYS A LANGUAGE?

For years the clergy have stubbornly fought against the Darwinian theory concerning the descent of man and the origin of specie, fearful, perhaps, that while it might account for many scientific conclusions not yet fully understood by the great mass of the people, it might also be the means of revealing too close a relationship between preacher and Ape for their personal comfort, and prove, as it were, a delving into their ancestral tree.

Through the medium of that archimedian lever, the daily press, we are informed that the the Chicago University, through its faculty, is about to come into possession of its own by the endowment of a chair for the study and development of the monkey language. There may be a Simian vocabulary for aught the Blade knows, and it may be both studied and developed, but prima facie, it has the appearance of tending to prove that these learned professors, who have so earnestly striven to make a veritable monkey out of this institution of learning, are soon to be thoroughly vindicated.

After all, why should not the monkey tribe be possessed of a medium of communication, i. e., a language? Does not the Bible give powers of speech to a snake? And the serpent said unto the woman, ye shall not surely die." (Gen. 3.4.) Further, does not the same authority assert that an ass held converse with a man? "And the Lord opened the mouth of the ass and she said unto Balaam, what have I done unto thee that thou hast smitten me these three times? And the ass said unto Balaam, am I not thine ass, upon which thou hast ridden ever since I was thine unto this day? Was I ever wont to do so unto thee? And he said, Nay." (Numbers 22, 27, 8, 9.) Now the question very naturally arises that if snakes and asses can be and are gifted with powers of speech and hold converse with men, why may not monkeys have a vocabulary which the human mind can ultimately grasp and develop?

If these reports be true, and sometimes they are not, then we might expect to read that within a few days the faculty of the Chicago University will come in actual contact with a genuine orang-outang, take him in their confidence, teach him human manners in exchange for being able to converse with him and reduce his chattering into plain and legible characters. On the other hand it may be that no good end will be accomplished by a compilation of a monkey vocabulary, but it would not surprise many if some intelligent Simian should succeed in drumming a little common sense into the ears of the faculty. Naturally the Chicago University stands for the chosen few and it has all the argument of precedent on its side.

No prospectus has yet been issued and the terms of such a course of study have not been promul-

gated. The public is informed, however, that for the present, monkeys are not to be placed on the same footing with the other students, for which the student body at least, should feel profoundly grateful. It is worth knowing that the professors expect to learn something from the ape rather than to attempt his education.

But such is fate. Denying kinship with the monkey—these Chicago educators of men hope to acquire knowledge from the specie.

Christian Russia is gradually being brought into the limelight of investigation and the thinking people of the civilized world are able to obtain some faint idea of its savage ignorance and fiendish persecutions. The very name of the Slavonic government, with its Siberian horrors, has sent a shudder through humanity and cast a shadow on the sun. Siberia was the Ice Hell of the old Norseman and it has long been a hideous nightmare to civilization. In none but a Christian land could such horrors long survive, but with the divine right of kings firmly imbedded in the minds of the people, civilization may yet be appalled at the efforts of the more intelligent to wrest the Duma from unwilling hands. Nations rise only through a mist of tears. Mankind will never stride a millenium that has been built to order. Liberty, though priceless, must be earned through suffering and sorrow.

ATHEISM AND MORALITY.

Some time ago we dealt with this subject in answer to the presumptuous assertions of Rabbi Hirsch, of Chicago, and since that time additional testimony of an unimpeachable character has been adduced to prove the truth of the arguments we advanced. It is a matter of common knowledge among the educated classes that Atheism and crime are incompatible, but it may be impossible to impress this fact upon the minds of ignorami.

We now desire to call attention to the article printed in another column of this issue, showing the number of professed preachers at present confined in the penitentiaries of the several states. While dilating upon the figures therein contained, it would be advisable to ascertain why they were there. True, the comparisons given are as between actors and preachers. As a rule actors are not confined, they come in actual contact with all phases of human life. They get many hard knocks while the preachers enjoy life upon the industry of another and pose as experts in morality, leaders in culture and refinement, teachers of a system, or code, that induces to right living and abstention from crime. It may be that these clerical convicts advised their flocks to do as they said and not as they do, but the fact remains that their profession of Christianity did not prevent them from the commission of crime and their presence in the penitentiary could only come after conviction by a jury of twelve men.

Suppose the comparisons had been drawn as between preachers and atheists, instead of actors, we opine that the discrepancy would have been greater. So far as the Blade can now know there is but one avowed atheist in the United States penitentiaries, and that is Moses Harmon, whose conviction was wrought by a gang of sanctified saints who would usurp the throne of the God they worship for notoriety. In any event the Blade is prepared to challenge the preachers to furnish statistics on the subject and with all the soldiers of the cross constituting the horde of blackcoated sky-pilots in America, the Atheists outnumber them. Be there preacher or lay Christian who dare take up the challenge?

On the other hand the extract from the sermon of Prof. David Swing, of Chicago, given in the article by Otto Wettstein in this week's Blade, should be enough to convince the most skeptical that Atheists are not given to crime and are seldom to be found in durance vile.

We have suggested that an inquiry be made into the character of the offenses committed by these clerical convicts. It would be a difficult matter to obtain the exact status of affairs without a copy of the court records, or an examination of those records. This much however, we do know, their offenses were deemed felonies under the law. Crimes are divided into felonies and misdemeanors. On the former can be punished by confinement in the penitentiary. The latter are punishable by fines and by imprisonment in county jails. Hence, the inference is plain, each of these clerical convicts, now wearing stripes, were guilty of a felony, or at least so adjudged by a jury of their countrymen.

Of course the Blade does not intend to condemn every clergyman for the sins of these, his compatriots. There are exceptions to most rules. Occasionally we may find a preacher of whom both his maker and mankind may feel proud, just as there are pedagogues who are something more than pariahs. Too often the weakness of preachers are the result of the methods by which they are made. They are allowed no independent inquiry, no search for truth beyond the narrow confines of a particular creed. Yet these very men whose minds have been warped by education only along certain fixed lines, unable to recognize and greet a truth unless stamped with the die of a certain dogma, set themselves up as teachers of men, presume to be the authorized interpreters of the plans of the Infinite, and tell men just what the creator requires of them.

False education and arrant hypocrisy combined

have ever stood in the pathway of the car of progress and bade it stand still like Joshua's moon in Ajalon. This has helped to make the Christian ministry a by-word and a reproach among men.

In face of such a startling array of data can any man honestly assert that the morality of the Christian is superior to that of the Atheist, or the Free-thinker?

Read further in the Blade's columns this week and it will be seen that progressive preachers, because they will persist in learning something are being villified, hounded and persecuted and put on trial for heresy. Honor be to all such men. They have refused to sit on the dead limb of the decaying orthodox tree and hoot the hoots that once did awake the Spanish Inquisition.

FORTUNE SEEDS.

We sometimes hear of great fortunes being made suddenly, as if by magic. But don't be deceived. Ordinarily fortunes are not made in this way. For one such there are thousands that grow like the plant, which needs culture day by day, from little seeds.

The penny is the fortune seed. It may seem a rather insignificant thing, but it is the small seed from which fortunes grow. If you want to raise a flower, you get the seed, plant it in the best soil available, water it, and do all you can to encourage it to grow. You may be fortunate enough to secure a half-grown plant, but sometime, somewhere, somebody planted the seed. The penny is the seed of that wonderful growth which the best of us cannot help admiring, and for which all of us, more or less, ardently long—the fortune plant. If you would have one of these little plants of your own, if you dream of sitting at ease under its branches in your old age, go about growing it in a rational way and in conformity with fixed law. Treat that little disk of copper—one cent—with all the respect that a fortune seed deserves.

Experience is the greatest of all teachers. But there are many of us who fail to perceive the significance of the facts which it so quietly and insistently places before us. When a man finds himself out of a job with no funds at his command, he is almost certain to blame his luck instead of sensibly realizing that experience is putting before him in the most convincing manner a lesson he needs to learn by heart. If, instead of bemoaning luck he will listen, that man may hear a still, small voice whispering to him of pennies, nickels and dimes which have not been wisely sown, but scattered on the winds and wasted. Money spent in legitimate pleasures, however, need never be regretted for such indulgences bestow delightful memories that are capable of comforting during the most cruel hardships.

Take care of the pennies. Look well to their planting. In time you may have a thrifty fortune plant.

One of the Blade's subscribers in last week's Box expresses the hope that we might study and advocate economic freedom upon the hypothesis that religious freedom has already been secured. The Blade does not advocate freedom on the installment plan, but stands for the fullest possible freedom consistent with the best interests of humanity. Hence its pages are devoted to absolute freedom, which implies freedom in all things wherein the best interests of society and happiness can be subserved. On the other hand we are compelled to take issue with our correspondent, in that religious freedom, like economic freedom, is yet a howling farce. There can be no religious freedom while the minds of the followers of Christ are filled with malice and hatred toward those who dare to declare themselves Freethinkers, and who would hunt Infidels down today for the glory of the church of Christ on earth. There yet remains a dark cloud of ignorance and superstition hanging over the minds of men that must be dispelled before religious freedom can become a fact. Demonstrate one physical fact to a worshipper of Christ, which seems to conflict with his inherited religion, he will deny the fact and refuse to investigate his religious dogma. Hence, religious freedom must precede economic freedom, for without religious freedom economic freedom is impossible.

Every genius furnishes the world with inspiration and every new truth brought before the world is a revelation. Here is inspiration and revelation from humanity, and both far more potent for the practical affairs of this life than the supposed inspiration and revelation of theology. Men wrangle away their lives over the alleged markings of God's finger on tables of stone, and here is the sun-set's golden splendor, the beauty of the rose, the sweet songs of birds, the stars which shed forth their sidereal glory at night's high-noon, all waiting our adoration and praise. There is more real happiness in the religion of humanity than in all the religions ever sanctioned by gods and ghosts. Learn to love man and let God take care of himself.

For nigh two thousand years the priesthood has poured its doleful tales into the ears of ancient dames and robbed confiding children of their pennies that they might live in luxury and ease. Is it not enough to tempt the righteous indignation of reasoning men?